

CAPITAL COMMENT

THE SPIES AMONG US

Was the CIA Duped by the KGB
Into Handing Over Defector?

How trustworthy are the Soviet defectors among us? This question is one of many raised by a fascinating new book, *Shadrin, the Spy Who Never Came Back* (McGraw-Hill, \$13.95), destined to cause a stir within the US intelligence community.

In the book, author Henry Hurt shows a side of Washington few of us know: a city of dead drops, double agents, and spooks crawling around the elegant environs of the Sheraton-Carlton Hotel and spying on each other. The book delves into one of the most chilling—and perhaps sordid—mysteries in the annals of US intelligence: the fate of Nicholas George Shadrin.

When he defected to America in 1959, Shadrin, the youngest destroyer commander in the Soviet Navy, was a brilliant catch. But one cold winter night in 1975, Nick Shadrin, an American citizen and Washington-area resident, walked out of the Hotel Bristol in Vienna for a rendezvous with a KGB contact and never returned. He left behind a wife named Ewa, today a dentist living in McLean, and a trail of riddles. Was Shadrin defecting back to the Soviets? Had he been controlled by Moscow all along? Or was Nicholas Shadrin a patriotic American cruelly and stupidly used by a bungling CIA?

Hurt suggests that Nick Shadrin was abducted by the KGB but gives enough evidence that one could conclude he was a traitor. Shadrin's life in Washington was sufficiently frustrating to make him ripe for treason. He was bitter and miserable because he could never get a security clearance and thus advance at his job at the Office of Naval Intelligence. He told one friend that if he had known what awaited him in America, "I would never have come."

But the trip to Vienna wasn't his idea—at least not overtly. CIA officials had been approached by "Igor," a high-ranking KGB officer, who offered to become an agent-in-place in the heart of KGB headquarters in Moscow. Igor's only requirement was aid in a difficult mission that would facilitate his rise in the ranks: the recruitment of Shadrin. American intelligence officers decided to try to get Shadrin to go along in duping "Igor." But where were Shadrin's actual loyalties?

One person who has never doubted Shadrin's patriotism is Ewa, his wife, with whom he fled Communist Poland. Neither Ewa nor her lawyer, Richard Copaken of the Washington law firm of Covington & Burling, has gotten any answers from the intelligence community or the White House. Ewa's bill at C&B: \$250,000.

Another Shadrin supporter is James Jesus Angleton, the counterintelligence spymaster fired by William Colby. Angleton appar-

ently told Copaken that the agency was wrongheaded to let an unwitting Shadrin go on a mission to a foreign city notorious as a KGB nest. Angleton told Copaken that the US should try to redeem itself by making an enormous cash settlement on Ewa and a public apology. The CIA's failure to protect Shadrin is disastrous to the "climate of defection," in the eyes of Angleton.